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is a rather plastic organism, and for this reason experiments along the line indicated are more or less justified.

"5. Experiments in supplying plants and cut flowers with vegetable coloring matters and aniline dyes showed that none of the vegetable color substances were taken up and that only a comparatively few of the aniline dyes would color flowers. The fact that of thousands of dyes or color substances, only a few are carried as high as the flower, would tend to show that only certain chemicals or substances would be taken up by the plant, and thus exert an influence on the coloring matter in the flower. If such profound changes occur in plants as are provided by the mutation theory, is it too much to suppose that certain definite changes might be produced by means of which we have knowledge or control?"

Dr. Kraemer's remarks were illustrated by a hundred or more freshly cut flowers such as carnations, roses, hyacinths, and callas, which had been artificially colored in the few hours preceding the demonstration by placing the stalks of the flowers in solutions of certain dyes. Numerous dried specimens of artificially colored flowers of various plants were also exhibited.

Dr. Rusby showed fresh fruits of the so-called "tree-tomato," a species of *Cyphomandra* native to South America.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

#### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. George T. Moore will have charge of the botanical department of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, during the coming summer.

It is stated in a recent number of *Science* that Professor Roland Thaxter, of Harvard University, has a year's leave of absence, during which he will make botanical collections in South America.

Professor J. C. Arthur and Mr. Frank D. Kern of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, are spending three weeks or more at the New York Botanical Garden, engaged in studies on the North American Uredinales.

Dr. Jesse M. Greenman, assistant curator of the department of botany of the Field Columbian Museum, sailed from New York for Yucatan on January 11 to collect and study the phanerogamic flora of that region.

Dr. Burton E. Livingston, recently of the Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has accepted a position with the department of botanical research of the Carnegie Institution and began his new work on January 1.

Miss Alice A. Knox, for several months assistant in the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden, becomes assistant in the department of botanical research of the Carnegie Institution on February 1, remaining in residence at the Botanical Garden.

The *Bryologist*, with the January issue, at the beginning of its ninth volume, passes under the editorship of Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, who is assisted by Dr. A. J. Grout (mosses), Mr. G. K. Merrill (lichens), and Miss Caroline Coventry Haynes (hepatics).

Sir William Thiselton-Dyer has resigned the directorship of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, a position which he had held since 1885. His successor is Lieutenant-Colonel David Prain, who has been director of the Botanical Survey of India since 1898.

Professor P. H. Rolfs, now in charge of the subtropical laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Miami, Florida, has been elected director and horticulturist of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station at Lake City and will take up his new duties on February 1. Mr. Ernst A. Bessey is Professor Rolfs' successor at Miami.

At the meeting of the American Mycological Society held in New Orleans January 1, Vice-president F. S. Earle occupied the chair in the absence of President Charles H. Peck. Twelve papers were presented. The president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer (C. L. Shear) were continued in office as a committee to complete details of organization in connection with the proposed union with other botanical societies.

Dr. F. Börgesen, of the Botanical Museum of Copenhagen, reached St. Thomas, West Indies, about the middle of December

for his third botanical exploration of the Danish West Indian islands. He is giving special attention to the collection of marine algæ with the assistance of Danish men-of-war for dredging operations. Dr. Børgesen hopes to visit the United States on his return voyage in April.

New appointments and changes of title in the staff of the New York Botanical Garden for the year 1906 include the following, the appointments dating from January 1, unless otherwise indicated: First assistant, William A. Murrill; head curator of the museums and herbarium, John K. Small; curator of the museum, P. A. Rydberg, Arthur Hollick, Marshall A. Howe; director of the laboratories, C. Stuart Gager (February 1); assistant curator, R. S. Williams, C. B. Robinson (July 1); administrative assistant, Percy Wilson.

The Bureau of Government Laboratories at Manila has been combined with the Mining Bureau of the Philippine Government and the united institutions are now to be known as the Bureau of Science. The results of its researches will be published in a new journal to be called "The Philippine Journal of Science." Dr. E. B. Copeland and Mr. A. D. E. Elmer have been transferred from the Bureau of Science to the educational department and Dr. H. N. Whitford goes to the Forestry Bureau.

Julien Reverchon, professor of botany in the Baylor College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Dallas, Texas, and well known as a student and collector of Texan plants, died near Dallas on December 30, 1905. He was born near Lyons, France, August 3, 1834, coming to America and settling in Texas in 1855. He was a correspondent of Gray, Engelmänn, Sereno Watson, and many later American botanists, and had contributed papers to the *Botanical Gazette*, *Garden and Forest*, and the *Fern Bulletin*. He is said to have left a collection of over 20,000 specimens of Texan plants.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science held its fifty-fifth annual meeting in New Orleans, December, 29, 1905, to January 4, 1906. The address of Professor W. G. Farlow, the retiring president of the Association was entitled

"The Popular Conception of the Scientific Man at the Present Day." This address was published in full in *Science* for January 5. Papers represented by thirteen titles were offered before Section G (botany) in addition to those read in joint session with the American Mycological Society. In the absence of Dr. Erwin F. Smith, the chair was occupied by the retiring chairman, Professor B. L. Robinson, whose vice-presidential address was upon "The Generic Concept in the Classification of the Flowering Plants." For 1906, Dr. D. T. MacDougal was elected chairman of Section G, Professor F. E. Lloyd continuing to serve as secretary.

The Botanical Society of America held its twelfth annual meeting at New Orleans, January 1-4, 1906. Vice-president E. A. Burt acted as chairman in absence of President R. A. Harper. Past-president Frederick V. Coville was absent and his announced address on "Botanical Explorations in Alaska" was accordingly omitted. For the ensuing year, Professor F. S. Earle was elected president; Professor William Trelease, secretary; and Dr. Arthur Hollick, treasurer. Grants were approved as follows: \$200 to Professor E. C. Jeffrey to aid in collecting lignitic fossils of eastern North America and in investigating their internal structure; \$150 to Dr. C. J. Chamberlain for the continuation of his studies on the spermatogenesis, oögenesis, and fertilization of *Dioön* and *Ceratozamia*; and \$100 to Professor J. C. Arthur for the continuation of investigations on the North American Uredinales.

The Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology held its ninth annual meeting at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., along with the affiliated scientific societies, on December 27-29, 1905. Twelve papers were presented in full. The meeting was practically a joint one with the Association of Central Botanists, the latter association having the afternoon, and the former the morning, programs. The Society voted to adopt the plan for the union of the American botanical societies and to unite with the Botanical Society of America and the American Mycological Society in case the proposed plan of union should be approved by those organizations. In view of the possible union no new officers were chosen, but the officers of last year were re-

elected to serve until the union is effected or until the next annual meeting. These officers are president, Professor E. C. Jeffrey ; vice-president, Dr. C. O. Townsend ; secretary-treasurer, Professor W. F. Ganong.

Mr. Job Bicknell Ellis, for years one of the leading systematic mycologists of America, died in Newfield, New Jersey, on December 30, 1905. He was born in Potsdam, New York, January 21, 1829. An interesting biographical sketch of Mr. Ellis, written by Mr. F. W. Anderson, was published in the *Botanical Gazette* for November, 1890. From 1880 until death severed the partnership in September, 1904, he was associated with Benjamin M. Everhart in the publication of descriptions of new American fungi and in issuing widely known sets of exsiccati of American fungi under the titles "North American Fungi" and "Fungi Columbiani," though the practical direction of the latter series has been assumed in recent years by younger workers in the mycologic field. Mr. Ellis' personal herbarium, including the types of numerous species, was purchased several years ago by the New York Botanical Garden and a large part of his library is also in possession of the same institution.

The Vermont Botanical Club held its eleventh annual winter meeting at the University of Vermont, Burlington, January 17 and 18. Among the papers read were those by President Ezra Brainerd treating of variations in violets, by C. G. Pringle in a reminiscent vein, by W. W. Eggleston on the *Crataegus* problems, and by Miss Nancy Darling on the flora of Hartland, Vt. In the latter was reported the finding of *Dryopteris Filix-mas*, which is a noteworthy addition to the flora not only of Vermont but of New England as well. The next field meeting is to be held about July 1 on Mt. Mansfield, when it is hoped a number of visiting botanists from other New England States and New York may meet with the local members. It is decided to publish an annual bulletin, of which the first number may be expected next April. The officers elected are : President, Ezra Brainerd ; vice-president, C. G. Pringle ; treasurer, Mrs. N. F. Flynn ; secretary, L. R. Jones.